



# Holiday Safety Tips

Durham Police Department Community Resource Unit  
(919) 560-4404

## Home Safety

- ✓ To deter forced entry install single or double cylinder deadbolt locks on doors (3-inch wood screws minimum). Lock doors and windows when you leave home, even if it's just for a few minutes. Do not leave key in door(s)!
- ✓ Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.
- ✓ Consider breaking boxes down and transporting to a recycling center instead of setting them at the curb.
- ✓ Conduct a holiday inventory. Take photographs or make videos of items and list descriptions and serial numbers. Keep photos/video in a secure place for future reference. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and reduce the stress of filing insurance claims. Make sure items like TVs, DVD players, stereo equipment, cameras, sports gear, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment, yard machinery, and yard tools are on the list.
- ✓ If you are at home and you hear someone breaking into your residence, leave the residence as quickly as possible. If you cannot leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police.
- ✓ When you leave home, use at least two timers for turning on lights within the residence. Also turn on a radio or a television. This will give the appearance that the home is occupied.
- ✓ Upon your return, if something looks questionable such as a slit screen, a broken window or an open door, do not go in. Call the police from a neighbor's house or cell phone.
- ✓ Report any suspicious activity to 9-1-1 immediately. When in doubt, call 9-1-1 !

## Travel Preparation

- ✓ Before your trip copy all credit cards, airline tickets, passports and important documents - front and back.
- ✓ Jewelry, luggage and all valuables should be photographed prior to trip.
- ✓ Inform your Neighborhood Watch block captain and/or a reliable neighbor of your travel schedule.
- ✓ Remember to stop delivery of your newspaper and mail.

## Use Police Department's Internet Sales Exchange Zones

Year-round there are parking spaces, in view of security cameras, to make internet sales exchanges at these DPD locations:

**District 1 Substation**  
921 Holloway Street

**District 4 Substation**  
2945 S. Miami Blvd.

**In December and January ONLY the lobby of police headquarters (602 E. Main Street) will also serve as an exchange zone.**



*Motor Vehicle, Shopping and Internet Safety Tips on Reverse Side*

# 2019



## Motor Vehicle Safety

- ✓ **NEVER leave a handgun in your vehicle unattended.**
- ✓ **NEVER leave your vehicle running and unattended. Also, do not leave a spare key inside the vehicle.**
- ✓ Do not leave valuables such as laptops, cell phones and chargers, cash, loose change, radar detectors, detachable stereo covers, GPS, CDs, and sports equipment in view.
- ✓ Keep a record of all your serial numbers for stereo equipment, amplifiers, and other personal items.
- ✓ If you choose to drink alcohol at a party, DO NOT drink and drive.
- ✓ Do not create or send text messages while driving.

## Shopping Safety

- ✓ Park in well-lit areas. Be sure to lock the car and to close all windows.
- ✓ Carry your wallet in a front pocket. If you must carry a purse, carry it close to your body.
- ✓ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or a credit card. Make sure only one receipt is printed and that only the last four digits of your card are visible on the receipt.
- ✓ When returning to your vehicle (or home), have your keys in your hand ready to open the door.
- ✓ If you take packages to the car, but plan to return to the store/mall, drive to a new location. Criminals can be on the lookout for unsuspecting shoppers who simply drop their purchases into the trunk and return to shopping.
- ✓ Most vehicles are equipped with factory car alarms. If you become startled or are approached in a suspicious manner, push your vehicle's panic alarm or the horn button on your key fob.
- ✓ When shopping with children, teach them to go to the store clerk, information center or security guard if you get separated.
- ✓ It's always best to have more than one adult when shopping with small children. Adults can help watch your surroundings - for example, when going to restrooms and when loading children into safety seats.

## Internet /Online Shopping Safety

- ✓ A con artist's website can look just as professional as a legitimate company's. Always check the site's security status. Closely evaluate the website domain name and URL. Spelling and grammatical errors are red flags. Verify that the company is real and reputable.
- ✓ When ordering from a new company, request that a catalog or printed material be sent to your residence.
- ✓ Protect your personal financial information by using a secure browser - one that can encrypt or scramble credit numbers or other personal data. Consider using the company's 800 number or using a check or money order to pay for your purchase. Always print out a copy of your order and confirmation number.
- ✓ Think security! Be leery of persons asking for your password or social security information.
- ✓ Be careful when purchasing items from social media ads/promotions that appear to be too good to be true.
- ✓ When purchasing items from sites such as Craigslist, letgo, or other similar sites, exercise preventive measures. Take a friend with you; make the exchange during daylight hours - always in a public, well-lit location; don't carry large sums of extra cash; and examine the item to make sure it is what you want (this includes inspecting the cash to make sure it's not counterfeit). **Use DPD's Internet Exchange Sales Zones!**

